On page 1, line 9, insert the following:

--BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Startup/driving authorization systems are intended to increase anti-theft security in a vehicle because further actions are necessary to enable the vehicle to be started and driven.--.

On page 1, line 10, delete "system of this type is known in the form of a".

On page 1, line 11, insert --is described in-- after "system", delete "from" and insert --Published-- after "German".

On page 1, line 12, insert --No.-- after "Application".

On page 1, line 15, insert the following:

--A startup/driving authorization system is described in, for example, International Patent Publication No. WO 96/28628. The further interrogation/response dialog is initiated by a control unit in the vehicle only if the brake pedal is pressed and the driver is occupying the driver's seat. The second interrogation/response dialog then enables the vehicle to be started and driven, for which purpose the driver must carry out the necessary switching actions.

European Published Patent Application No. 0 767 092 describes a method of monitoring the use of the seatbelt in a startup/driving authorization system and enabling the vehicle to be started and driven only if a switch provided on the seatbelt has been activated.

German Published Patent Application No. 43 29 697 states that approval to start and drive a vehicle may depend upon operating states, such as placing a gear in neutral.

German Published Patent Application No. 44 24 879 describes that depressing the brake pedal prior to the startup phase may be used as a requirement to indicate the intent to start the vehicle.--.

On page 1, line 16, change "Another" to --In another conventional-- and change "is known in which" to --,--.

On page 1, line 24, insert the following:

--For safety reasons, an increasing number of locks are being provided in a vehicle to block functions that are assigned when the vehicle is stopped but which are necessary to start and drive the vehicle. Reference here is made only to locking the steering column, power transmission, and gear train which must be released prior to starting and/or driving the vehicle. These locks increase the difficulty in operating conventional startup/driving authorization systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, delete lines 25-31, and in their place insert:

--Another object of the present invention is to incorporate the above-referenced locks into a startup/driving authorization system without increasing the difficulty of using the system when starting and driving the vehicle.

This object is achieved according to the present invention in that, after vehicle entry has been approved, using the further interrogation/response dialog triggered within the vehicle, an automatic initiation of preliminary startup procedures and release of legally required locks for the steering system, power transmission, and/or gear train are provided.

The further interrogation/response dialog is also used to automatically trigger the legally required locks so that the driver does not have to manually perform these operations, while the further interrogation/response dialog increases the security of the authorization system.--.

On page 2, delete lines 1-4.

On page 2, line 6, change "this" to --one--.

On page 2, line 21, delete "not".

On page 2, line 22, delete "described in further detail here".

On page 2, line 26, change "releasing" to --release of--.

On page 3, line 4, delete ", like that described in the next".

On page 3, line 5, delete "paragraph,".

On page 3, line 23, change "; these" to --. These--.

On page 4, line 5, change "inter alia" to --for example--.

On page 4, line 14, insert --,-- after "example" and insert --,-- after "system".

On page 4, line 24, delete "off".

On page 4, line 34, change ", for" to --. For-- and insert --,-- after "example".

On page 5, line 5, change "; for" to --. For--.

On page 5, delete lines 12 - 13.

On page 5, line 14, insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The Figure is a schematic view of a startup and driving authorization system according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.

On page 5, line 15, change "The block diagram" to --The Figure--.

On page 5, line 24, change "; locking" to --. Locking--.

On page 6, line 1, change "conceivable" to --possible--.

On page 6, line 5, change "carried out" to --performed--.

On page 6, line 13, delete "as well as" and delete "and, of course".

On page 6, line 14, delete "also".

On page 6, line 18, change "latter" to --control unit SG--.

On page 6, line 19, insert --, such as-- after "components".

On page 6, line 19, after "example" insert --,--.

On page 6, line 21, insert --,-- after "particular".

On page 6, line 22, insert --,-- after "parameters" and insert --,-- after "speed".

On page 7, line 1, delete "latter's".

On page 7, line 28, change "Providing" to --By providing--.